CHAPTER 2: CRACKERS AND BICYCLES

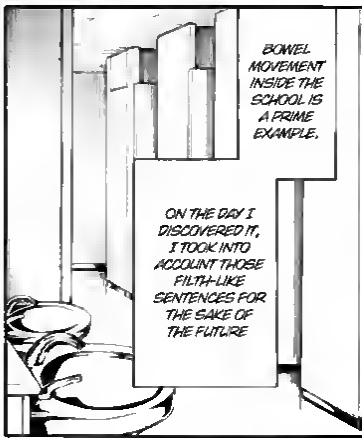
BEFORE I KNEW IT, I WAS CAUGHT UP IN A BATTLE IN SUSPENDED TIME
I WAS ABLE TO DEFEAT THE ENEMY SOMEHOW
THAT'S HOW IT IS, BUT...
I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND IT MYSELF
NOW THAT THINGS HAVE SETTLED DOWN A BIT THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS I WANT TO ASK...
THIS IS BAD...

IT'S MOVING!!
EH?
HEY-
LET'S FLY
カーン コーン
キーン コーン
.....
THIS IS

CHAPTER 2:
CRACKERS AND BICYCLES

SCHOOL
IN THOSE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, THEREEXISTS SEVERAL LIMITATIONS.
SORRY I'M LATE!

Uh....
UGH... THEIR STARES HURT
AND THEN HOMEROOM STARTED, AND WHEN I ENTERED THE CLASSROOM...
I, WHO HAS YET TO FIND A PLACE WHERE I BELONG, FOUND IT A VERY DIFFICULT ORDEAL.

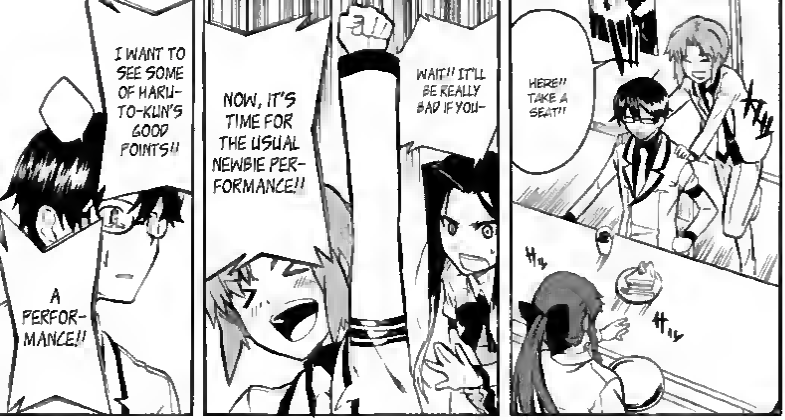

BOWEL MOVEMENT INSIDE THE SCHOOL IS A PRIME EXAMPLE.
ON THE DAY I DISCOVERED IT, I TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THOSE FILTH-LIKE SENTENCES FOR THE SAKE OF THE FUTURE

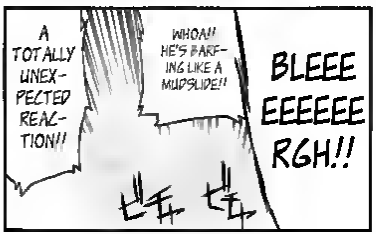
OH, TOKITOU
SO YOU POOPED, HUH?
GEEZ, SENSEI-!
YOU'RE SO TACT-LESS-
ALRIGHT, TAKE YOUR SEAT-
NOW LET'S START CLASS
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST DIE ALREADY.

EVEN THOUGH SUCH A THING HAPPENED THIS MORNING, I'M SURPRISED YOU CAN JUST GO HOME LIKE IT WAS NOTHING

GETTING INVOLVED WITH STRANGERS,
MAKES ME WANT TO VOMIT. IS THAT OKAY?
I THINK I'LL BE OKAY AS LONG AS THEY'RE NOT LOOKING FOR A COLLEGE-LEVEL PERFORMANCE
EH? WHAT IS THAT, SOME SORT OF PASSIVE SKILL?
.....
WE'RE HERE
I'LL MAKE SURE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN

*POINT BLANK
A BIG WEL-COOOOOME!!
MY EYES, MY EYES...
WEL-COOOOOME!!
HEY WAIT, YOU GUYS...
EVERYONE, DO IT NOW!!
GHBHWA!!
TO KIDS WHO ARE READING THIS: THIS IS DANGEROUS. DO NOT IMITATE.


I WANT TO SEE SOME OF HARU-TO-KUN'S GOOD POINTS!!
A PERFOR-MANCE!!
NOW, IT'S TIME FOR THE USUAL NEWBIE PER-FORMANCE!!
WAIT!! IT'LL BE REALLY BAD IF YOU-
HERE!! TAKE A SEAT!!


A TOTALLY UNEX-PECTED REAC-TION!!
WHOA!! HE'S BARF-ING LIKE A MUDSLIDE!!
BLEEE EEEEEE RGH!!

PER-FOR-MANCE !!
PER-FOR-MANCE !!
PER-FOR-MANCE !!
PER-FOR-MANCE !!
PER-FOR-MANCE !!
PER-FOR-MANCE !!
WATER-MELON SPLIT-TING!!

NOW THAT AN HOUR HAS PASSED AND WE'VE CLEANED UP THE CLASS-ROOM,
LET'S HAVE THE INTRO-DUCTIONS.
AND SO...
I'VE ALREADY TOLD EVERY-ONE ELSE ABOUT YOU.
I DON'T WANT YOU THROWING UP AGAIN BECAUSE OF THE PRES-SURE.
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU SEEM KIND OF DOWN.
I'M RELIEVED THAT YOU'RE MUCH, MUCH MORE CHEER-FUL THAN I EXPECTED.
I AM HIMEGISHI RIKO.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
WANT ME TO TURN YOU INTO A LOW DOLL!?
HMPH
I'M THE STRONGEST MAN EVER, BABA KAZUYA.

HEYA!! I'M TSUK-ISHIRO-HINAWA!!
I LOVE GUNS AND BOTHERING OTHERS!!
RIGHT NOW, MY MENTAL STATE IS LIKE A KID WHO JUST GOT A NEW TOY! LET'S GET ALONG 'KAY!?
DON'T FORCE YOURSELF TO WORK!
ALSO, THE SURPRISE EARLIER WAS MY IDEA!
STOP IT
GH-WAAAA...
NOW, LET'S TALK ABOUT THE FOES WHO WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING.
THERE'S ONE MORE THAT YOU'LL MEET SOME OTHER TIME.

I SEE...
SO THAT WAS A SPACE THAT HAD BEEN EATEN. HUH...

I'VE EXPLAINED IT A LITTLE TO YOU BEFORE THOSE KOAKUJARU ARE CREATURES THAT EAT TIME TO MOVE.
THEIR PURPOSE IS TO MAKE TIME STOP. THAT'S WHAT THEY'VE BEEN TRYING TO DO

IN SHORT IT'S...
"UNDER TIME"...

ANYWAYS, AS FOR THE TIME THAT THE KOAKUJARU HAS EATEN
IT WON'T RETURN UNLESS WE BEAT THEM.

NO UH... SORRY, I KINDA GOT INTO IT
WELL ANYTHING GOES, REALLY
?

THEN, HOW COME I CAN MOVE DURING "UNDER TIME"?
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU HAVE MORE TIME THAN THE AMOUNT THAT WAS EATEN.
HUMANS WHO HAVE MET THE CONDITIONS HAVE SUCH PREDISPOSITION.
I SEE. I UNDERSTAND IT, MORE OR LESS.
OKAY, THEN IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND-
WE ARE THE CHOSEN DEFENDERS...
IN SHORT,
"ORACLE GUARDIANS"
WHAT YOU'VE BEEN SAYING SINCE EARLIER IS SO DISGUSTING!!

STOP SAYING STUPID THINGS!!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? IT'S FOR THE SAKE OF SMOOTH FACILITATION LIKE THE CELL AUTOMATON.
IT WOULD BE MUCH MORE EFFICIENT TO INCREASE THE FREQUENCY OF THE USE OF SIMPLIFIED TERMINOLOGIES IN ORDER TO-
SHUT UP!!
HINAWA!! MAKE THIS GUY THROW UP!!
BLEEEE RGH!!
HE IS MUCH MORE SOCIABLE THAN I EXPECTED.
KAZU, WHY DON'T YOU SAY SOMETHING AS WELL?
HAA?
SAY WHAT?

HEY, NEWBIE!
I SAW HOW YOU FOUGHT THIS MORNING,
BUT IT'S NO GOOD.
.....
FOR EXAMPLE, SOME ADVICE.
ゴキッ
YOU'RE JUST GONNA DIE.
WITH THAT LOUSY FIGHTING STYLE,
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
ﾊﾟﾝﾁ

I JUST WANTED TO SAY SOME-THING
THERE'S REALLY NO MEANING BEHIND IT...

EEEE EEEE EH!!?

THEN, KAZU, WHAT DO YOU LIKE?
BOOBS
HE IS AN IDIOT.

THAT'S BAD HARUTO-KUN.
WHO'RE YOU CALLING AN IDIOT!?
EVEN IF IT'S TRUE, YOU SHOULDN'T CALL KAZU A SUPER IDIOT.

AH!! HARUTO-KUN, YOU WERE JUST THINKING THAT HE WAS AN IDIOT AGAIN, WEREN'T YOU?
THEY'RE ALL IDIOTS...
ARE YOU AN ESPER!?
YOU BASTARD! YOU WERE REALLY THINKING IT!?

OKAY! I CHALLENGE YOU!
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN TAKE BEING CALLED AN IDIOT BY THIS MOODY BASTARD!!
WELL, I WAS THINKING IT, BUT...
I REFUSE WHAT GOOD WILL IT DO EVEN IF WE FIGHT?
ISN'T THAT SOMETHING YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO DO WITH SOMEONE ON THE SAME LEVEL?
...WHAT DIDJA SAY, BASTARD...?
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY FRIENDS
SUCH A LOW-DEGREE PROVOCATION PERHAPS YOU'RE A BIT TOO YOUNG FOR VERBAL SPARS?
STOP IT, YOU TWO~

THIS IS THE SECOND TIME TODAY...
HOW UNUSUAL...
OH!
THE ORACLE IS...

IT'S THE ENEMY.

GOOD TIMING!!
ALRIGHT. LET'S SPLIT INTO TWO GROU-

IT'S CLOSE.
IT SEEMS TO BE INSIDE THE SCHOOL GROUNDS.

?
HEY NEWBIE HERE'S THE CHAL-LENGE.

THE LOSER GETS A PUNISH-MENT!
THE ONE WHO BEATS THE KOAKUJA-RU FIRST WINS!
HOW'S THAT, NEWBIE !?
WHAT...

THIS MIGHT BE BETTER THAN NOT RESOLVING THEIR CAT-FIGHT...
ふむ…
KU, KUON?

KAZU! THIS ISN'T THE RIGHT TIME NOR PLACE!
NO...

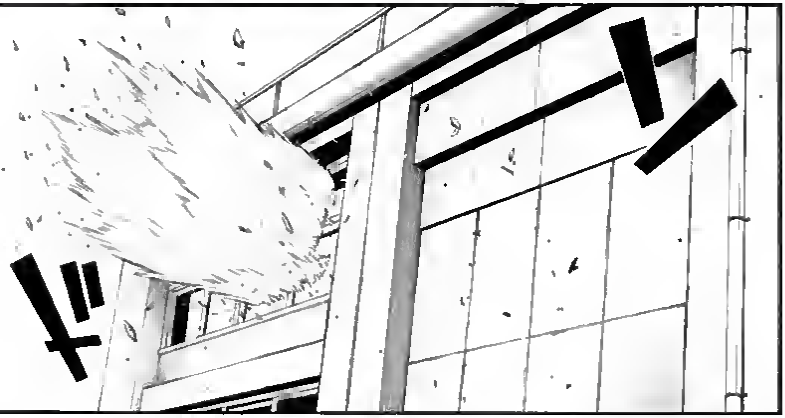
WE ARE ALLIES WHO FACE THE MAW OF DEATH TOGETHER!
ILL WILL TOWARDS EACH OTHER WILL ONLY MAKE US WALK ON THIN ICE!
WE MUST CLASH WITH AND UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER, AND ONLY THEN CAN WE LEAVE OUR BACKS TO ONE ANOTHER!
I GET IT
I ACCEPT YOUR CHAL-LENGE!
ニヤニヤ

THERE IT IS!!
ITS SHAPE IS DIFFERENT FROM LAST TIME
EVEN THE KOAKUJARU HAVE THEIR INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES
JUST BECAUSE IT'S SMALL DOESN'T MEAN IT'S WEAK.
NOW THEN, EVERYONE EXCEPT THOSE TWO, YOU-

I'LL GO ON AHEAD!!
AH-
THAT'S CHEAT-ING!!
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS CHEATING IN A FIGHT!
STUU-UUPID POOP!!
IT'S MY VICTORY!!

CAN'T EVEN CALL THIS A WARM-U-
HMPH!

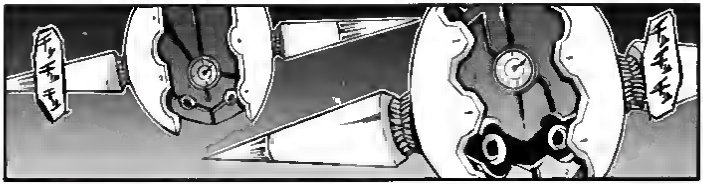
!?



WELL I'M SURE HE'S FINE
EVEN IF HE'S LIKE THAT...
THAT IDIOT
HEY... HE WAS JUST BLOWN AWAY...
WHOA!

HE'S STILL THE FASTEST AMONG US.

YOU SURE SURPRISED ME,
PIP-SQUEAK.
HE MANAGED TO GET THERE AT THAT LAST MOMENT!?
WHA!?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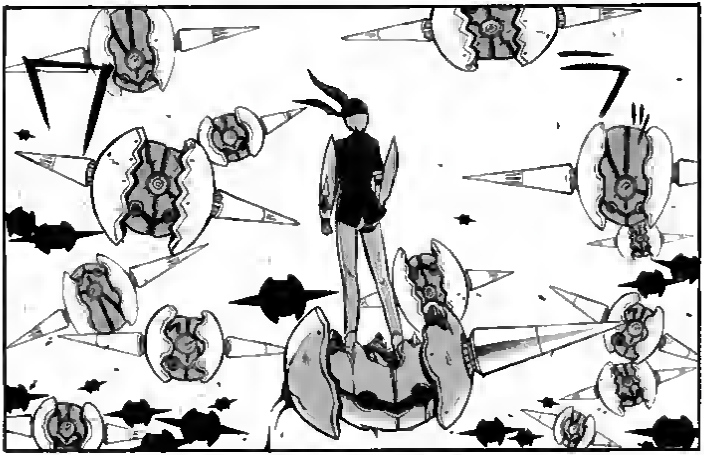


HMPH!
SWARMING HERE IN FLOCKS...
THERE'S PUNISHMENT AT STAKE HERE, YA KNOW...
NO, TO... THERE ARE 100 OF THEM.
SEEMS TOO MUCH FOR JUST THE TWO OF THEM...
WHOA~ THERE'S A LOT OF THEM~

HAAAAAAAA!!!
AH... THIS IS AMAZING-
SEEMS LIKE THIS'LL END FASTER THAN EXPECTED
HM?
WHERE'S HARU-TO-KUN?
LOOK UP

DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HE WANTS TO LOSE.
HE'S FAST...
HE'S ALREADY BEATEN ABOUT A QUARTER OF THOSE AROUND HIM...!!
MY "METEORITE FALL" DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE THAT MUCH MANEUVERABILITY...
THIS IS QUITE A DISADVANTAGE... I GOTTA DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS.

HAHA HAHA HA!
HIHY AHA!
HA!
I'VE ALREADY KILLED ABOUT HALF OF THEM, HUH!?
I'M BURNING UP NOW!!
WHEN THE FOES GATHER IN ONE PLACE...
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY FOR ME TO WIN.

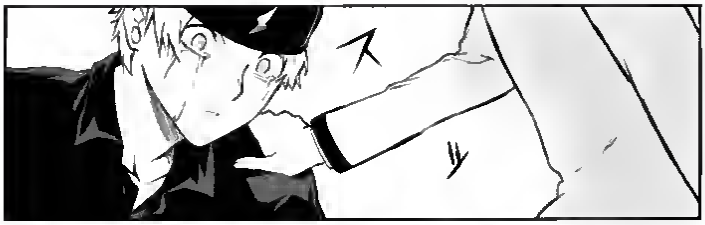
I'LL ATTACK THAT POINT
WITH FULL POWER!!
HUH?

BE SURE TO AVOID IT! SENPAI!!
「METEORITE FALL」
PIERCING WAR HAMMER OF LIGHT

NOW THEN,
IT'S TIME TO ANNOUNCE THE RESULTS~ ♪
HUU UUU H!?
SUCH A CLOSE BATTLE, 51-49...
IT'S HARUTO'S WIN~ ♪
DON'T SCREW WITH ME!! YOU MUST'VE COUNTED WRONG!!
AT LEAST SAY THAT AFTER YOU STAND UP
SHADDUP!! MY HIP HURTS!!
HEY, HEY, HARU-TO-KUN~
WHAT IS IT?

YES.
I THOUGHT THAT WAS THE ONLY WAY I COULD WIN.
DID YOU MOVE BECAUSE YOU KNEW HOW MANY ENEMIES THERE WERE?
IS IT BECAUSE YOU KNEW THAT YOU ATTACKED WITH THAT ONE SHOT FOR MAXIMUM EFFECT?
I DEMAND A RE-COUNT!
HEY!
I'M NOT CONVINCED BY THAT!!
HO- YOU'VE GOT GOOD EYES.
SHUT UP.

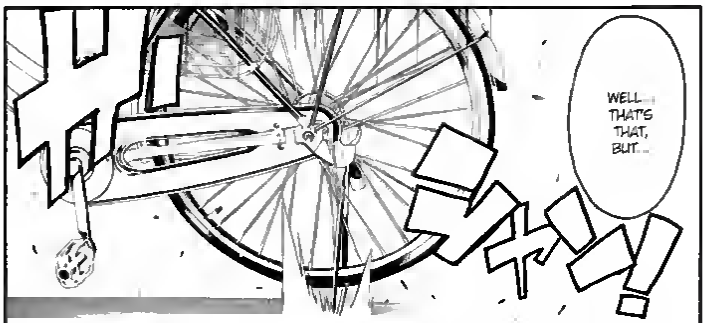
I KNEW THAT IT WASN'T FAIR TO THE NEWBIE...
EVEN I KNOW THAT I DID SOMETHING STUPID
I GET IT ALREADY I GIVE UP
IT'S MY LOSS...
BUT I WAS FRUS-TRATED!
I'VE ALREADY RESIGNED MYSELF TO BEING THE BULLIED CHAR-ACTER!! THAT'S THE STATUS QUO!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE THAT
BUT WHEN THE NEWBIE CAME I THOUGHT THAT THE STATUS QUO WOULD CHANGE
KAZU...
I'M SORRY NEWBIE...



NEWBIE...
COME STAND UP...

IT'S OKAY I DON'T MIND...
BESIDES I ONLY WON BECAUSE OF LUCK.

I-I...


WELL... THAT'S THAT, BUT...

IT'S TIME FOR THE AWAITED PUNISHMENT GAME!
THIS TIME, IT'S FROM PEN NAME HINA-WA-MAN. IT'S CALLED THE "SPLIT THE ASS USING THE REAR WHEEL OF THE BIKE PLAN"!
HI~ME-HIME ♪
LET'S SEE HOW STRONG SHE REALLY IS!
THE ONE PEDALING WILL BE HIME-CHAN.
EH?
STOP !...
NOW THEN, LET'S START THE PARTY ON FULL SWING ♪
第3準備室
GHAAA AAAAA AAAAA AAAAA
◆つづく◆